

WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE

WISHA Services

Department of Labor and Industries

2.16

TARGETING WISHA ACTIVITIES (LOGGING)

Date: May 2, 2001

I. Background

Most Washington employers are subject to Title 49.17 RCW, the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA). RCW 49.17.050(6) specifically requires the department to "provide for the frequency, method, and manner of the making of inspections of work places without advance notice." WAC 296-350-10010(1) specifically provides for programmed inspections using "scheduling systems" that may look at a range of objective criteria. WAC 296-350-10010(3) also provides for "routine programmed inspections" of several "high hazard industries," including logging.

II. Scope and Application

This WISHA Regional Directive, which replaces and rescindes WISHA Interim Operations Memorandum #98-6-E, will remain in effect indefinitely. It provides guidance to WISHA enforcement and consultation staff regarding programmed activities within logging.

III. Special Enforcement and Consultation Protocols

A. Who has primary responsibility for managing the appropriate use of WISHA enforcement resources to conduct logging inspections?

WISHA regional enforcement supervisors are responsible for managing the appropriate assignment of logging inspections within the region.

1. WISHA enforcement supervisors have a responsibility to ensure that staff focus their attention on those work sites where they are likely to identify the greatest number of serious hazards.

2. WISHA safety and hygiene enforcement supervisors are expected to make a particular effort, using any resources available to them, to identify and inspect those logging employers who appear highest on the logging industry list. To the extent possible, inspections of employers high on the list should be given priority over other programmed inspections within logging.

B. How should inspections within the logging industry be reported?

Inspections within the logging industry are to be considered “programmed” inspections unless they are fatality/catastrophe investigations or have been initiated in response to specific complaints or referrals. All such programmed inspections are to be comprehensive hygiene or safety inspections of the work site and/or operation, including an evaluation of the employer’s overall safety and health program.

C. When should WISHA consultation activity be identified as “programmed” consultation activity?

WISHA consultation services that result from employer-specific marketing to employers within the logging industry will be considered “programmed” consultation activity for the purposes of the reporting to federal OSHA.

Approved: _____

Michael Wood

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For further information about this or other WISHA Regional Directives, you may contact WISHA Policy & Technical Services at P.O. Box 44648, Olympia, WA 98504-4648 -- or by telephone at (360)902-5503. You also may review policy information on the WISHA Website (<http://www.wa.gov/lni/wisha>).